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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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SUBJECT: KHUK, Yaroslava, 1628 W 39 St Gary, Ind., Tel. 847-4329

SOURCE: A 4-hours interview at S's home on 26 August 1961

DATE: 6 Sep 1961

S lives with her parents at above address since her arrival to the States in May 1961. She is Ukrainian, aged 21, single. S was left by her parents with grandma in TURKA, West Ukraine in 1943 during front hostilities there. They moved only "temporarily" to a close-by village hoping to return to Turka after its re-occupation by Germans. At that time S should have been very ill and they were afraid to risk her taking with them. As it turned out Germans failed in re-occupying Turka and S's parents were compelled to proceed with their evacuation to the West without her. In 1953 they made first attempts to get their daughter to the States. One of the main obstacles by which S was faced had been her Komsomol membership which aroused strong objection on the part of the American Embassy in Moscow. Only on intervention of an US Senator S was allowed to join her parents in Gary.

S was brought up by her grandma who was threatened by Soviet authorities that in case she should fail in "proper care" for her grand-daughter the latter would be taken to a Childrens Home. To this effect S joined in due time Pioneers and Komsomol. Her grandma tried to teach her "some catechism" but S did not go to church. S went to desiatylitka in Turka and finished 10 grades in 1959. Since then she worked as "pioneerwozhata" at STANIACH, r-n TURKA helping there a lady-teacher to care for 120 school-children. She earned R 41.- per month.

S was going to study Russian at a University and her job as "pioneerwozhata" was to be taken into account to meet new regulations for immigration for higher education. Now S is learning English and plans to study Slavistics, eventually at Syracuse University. Her father is very keen on providing her with that possibility in order to avoid in the future any pretensions and adaptation of S in case she would have to work in the States as manual or clerical worker.

S claims to know only TURKA and neighborhood. She went to SAMBOR and to LVIV. In LVIV she attended an oblast pioneer conference at the Palace of Pioneers and also participated in a meeting of pioneerwozhata in 1960. On her way to the States she travelled through KIEV and MOSCOW.

S is a typical product of Soviet education and indoctrination. She is of average intelligence, has common sense, rather critical. Her understanding and perception is, however, to a very great extent hampered by the ideological baggage she has been inculcated with. She sees many positive achievements of the Soviet system, in particular in scientific, educational and economic spheres, and as a "co-creator" of them considers any all-out rejection of all that Soviet as some sort of personal offence and national degradation. On the other hand, she admits and realizes shortcomings and negatives of the Soviet reality.

According to her statements she finds it difficult to "speak common language" with old emigres who "are getting angry with her

when she tries to be objective and does not criticize ^{even} anything that is Soviet and moreover when she fails to get delighted with anything that is American". In her opinion the people she met had a very distorted picture of the situation in the Ukraine and wanted her to confirm that Ukrainians ~~were~~ still starving in millions, shot and deported in thousands; that all scientific and economic achievements were just bluffs also. One should, consequently, assume that such "attacks" of the people she spoke to must have pushed her to an even more extreme position in defending "Soviet reality" than she perhaps herself was convinced of. Nevertheless, her communist indoctrination is very strongly felt.

Her national sentiment is limited to awareness of belonging to Ukrainian people as to a separate one from Russian nation without any further political articulation. She is indifferent as to whether Ukraine should be or not separated from Russia and sees nothing wrong in present union-solution. To her - the Ukraine is a state and she has mentioned KIRITCHENKO, KALCHENKO and KOTOTCHENKO as "our great Ukrainian statesmen in Kiev".

After having visited Chicago, Springfield and in particular some locations with rich Negro population she has changed her mind about "enslavement of Negroes" in the States and in general is much less critical of American reality than she has been before. She appreciates very much the living standard in the USA, admits that a worker in the Soviet Union in her father's position could never afford what he has in the States and is especially delighted with ladies cloth.

S is not talkative, rather somewhat reticent and shy.

B. Following is material obtained from S :

1. National composition of population of TURKA.

S was unable to state how many inhabitants has TURKA. There are approximately 85% local Ukrainians, 10 % Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine and the rest - Russians, about 10 Polish families and others. There were quite a few Jews but they mostly emigrated to Poland in 1958.

Most Russians and Eastern Ukrainians are occupying various "responsible administrative, party and other governmental positions, together with local Ukrainians. Thus director of sawmill of Turka in Mitskewicha wul. is a Russian (name unknown), director of furniture - factory - SILIDUEV, fmu is also Russian but on the other hand director of the brick-yard of Turka is local Ukrainian (name unknown). All the KGB officers in Turka (in Mitskewitcha wul.) are Russians (names unknown).

Some Russians and Eastern Ukrainians are employed as technicians and ~~and~~ other specialists in various branches of economic life, mostly as mechanists with RTS or agronomists. Also as chairman of kolhospy in some places in rayon. In general, however, in TURKA-rayon there are relatively few Russians since for a few last years there has been a strong tendency among them to leave Turka which is considered to be rather backward and dull, and to move to some other more brighter rayons. They go mostly to LVIV, DROHOBYTCH, STANISLAV. In TURKA they arrived as specialists and governmental employees and not as resettlers to occupy houses left by Ukrainians who moved or were deported to other parts of the Soviet Union.

S did not remember any bigger deportations taking place in Turka. In 1958-59 several baptist families were deported to Siberia because "they refused to stop their anti-governmental activities". There were some trials at that time but S did not know details. Several young men were sentenced to deportation because they refused to serve with the Army. Now they work somewhere in Siberia. They wrote letters to their friends in Turka saying that conditions there (in Siberia) were better than in their native place.

S did not know of any deportation in recent years on political grounds. Some people from Turka did, however, resettle to other parts of Ukraine and to Siberia in search for better work and life.

2. Schools in Turka and Turka-raion.

Turka's Full Secondary school is located in/ Chapayeva wul. In 1959 it had 730 pupils and students. 70% were local Ukrainians, 15% Eastern Ukrainians, 10% Russians and the rest - Poles, Jews and others. Russians were mostly children of officers and other military personnel serving in Turka, in higher grades of desiatylitka.

Since 1960 director of the Full secondary school was SHEVCHUK, Alexandra Fedorivna, female, Ukrainian from Kharkov, party member. Prior to her was BRENDSESTEIN, Imu - a Jew who stated his nationality as Russian, party member, in 1959 emigrated to Poland and from there probably to Israel.

Chairman of pedagogical council (Zavped) was Hryhoriy Ivanovitch, Imu - a local Ukrainian. Prior to 1959 was PEDAN, Olga Ivanivna from Eastern Ukraine, Ukrainian.

Other members of pedagogical staff S remembered:

HEVNYK, Daria Lvivna - aged 40, teacher of Ukrainian, local Ukrainian from a place near LVIV; lectured on Ukrainian literature in 1959;

YAKIMENKO, Tamara Konstantynivna - aged 35, Ukrainian from Eastern Ukraine, lecturer in Ukrainian too; she always spoke Ukrainian not Russian;

TRACHUK, Klaudia Markivna - Jewish, from Eastern Ukraine, lecturer in Russian;

Antonina Panasivna Imu - lecturer in Russian, Ukrainian, from Eastern Ukraine, wife of a Soviet Army officer;

CHERNETS', Valentina (Lentina?) - ~~also~~ ~~was~~ local Ukrainian, lecturer in anatomy and sculpture.

In general there were about 50% local Ukrainians in pedagogical staff. The rest - Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine and Russians. S did not know "old teachers" meaning those from time before the WW II. She was told that they either died fled to the West with Germans or perished in war. Local Ukrainian teachers are mostly young people.

All subjects except Russian are taught in Ukrainian. Sometimes, however, Russian teachers (of Russian nationality) taught their subjects in Russian.

In Turka there is also one Eight years school with Ukrainian language and one with Russian.

The Russian Eight years school in Turka is located in Chapayeva vul. Ukrainians are taught only in lower grades as a separate subject. I did not know any other data about this school. Some of its students after 8th grade enter either Ukrainian Full Secondary School in Turka or go to LVIV or some other larger town with Russian secondary schools. In 1959-60 the Russian school in Turka had about 400 pupils and students, mostly children of military personnel and some higher officials of Russian nationality. As a rule Russians send their children to Russian schools.

The Ukrainian Eight years school in Turka had in 1959-60 about 580-600 pupils and children.

Turka has also 2 elementary schools.

There is also in Turka a Ditsbudynok (Children's House) with approx. 400 children up to 15-16 years of age. It is located in Lenina vul. Its director is a local Ukrainian. Many children are being brought from other rayons and oblasts. Nurses and teachers speak mostly Russian, so do the children. Children are all orphans or abandoned by their parents.

In TURKA-raion there are beside Full Secondary school in Turka itself following desiatylytkas:

in BORYNIA (about 1000 pupils and students), VERKHNIE VYSOTSKE, VOVTCHIE, YASIVKA, ROZLUTCHIE, and in ZAVADKA. Children (students) and teachers are mostly local Ukrainians.

3. School-reform

I did not know anything about the law requiring parents to decide to what school - Russian or Ukrainian - their children will have to go. As far as she knew all Ukrainians sent their children to Ukrainian schools.

I knew about "connection of school with life" proclaimed in 1958 or 1959. This reform introduced not only some changes in organizational sphere whereby some schools were transformed from desiatylytka into Eight Years schools but also some alterations in curriculum. In consequence a great emphasis was put on "practical subjects" such as embroidery, cooking, gardening also for girls and carving, welding and similar works for boys. Students were quite satisfied with the new program in the beginning but the situation changed after some practical exercises had to be done in workshops and in the field. It became even worse when they were forced to help in harvesting and similar works in kolhospy and in ~~fact~~ fulfilling plans in workshops. Very often they had to perform a normal rather hard work and were not paid. The only remuneration was providing them with tracks for an excursion to a larger city or to another raion and movies.

Students did not protest openly but exercised some sort of opposition by doing their job pretty badly. As example she stated that sometimes when ~~digging~~ collecting potatoes they did not dig very deeply and took only what was "on surface". As a rule almost every student had to spend about 2 weeks a year on agricultural work in kolhosp.

Another innovation which was rather disliked by students required them to work at a plant or in some other enterprise for at least one month.

in order to be admitted to the next grade, during vacations. Most students ~~must~~ worked, however, usually for not more than 2 weeks or so and were paid. Some of S's colleagues earned R 25.- (250 in old money) per month at the Turka brick-yard. Girls worked mostly at scowall.

4. Ukrainian language.

In Turka and moreover in the countryside all people speak Ukrainian with exception of Russians. S spoke Russian with some of her friends because she was going to study Russian but nobody asked her to do so. To some Russian friends she could have spoken in Ukrainian and they would not mind.

In SAMBOR people also speak Ukrainian, like in Turka. The situation is somewhat different in LVIV. There, about 50% speak Russian, incl. not only true Russians but also Jews and other minorities who usually do not know Ukrainian. Also some Ukrainians prefer to speak Russian.

In Turka, in offices and other official places, both languages - Ukrainian and Russian - are spoken. S thought that most people spoke Ukrainian.

S did not consider language as a matter of principal expression of somebody's nationality or moreover patriotism. Some Ukrainians are absolutely conscious of their national allegiance but don't care about language. At least it was S's impression among younger people.

5. Party and Komsomol.

Majority of party-members consists of Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine and Russians. Local element is somewhat hesitant to join the party. But its ~~share~~ "share" is increasing every year. S knew several local members of party like SHALBAVKA, Oksana Petrovna of Turka, YURYTOCHKO, Yosyp Ivanovitch from a place near Turka and others.

SABOLAK, from Ukrainian from Eastern Ukraine was in 1960 -61 chief of Komsomol for Turka-rayon. The HQs is in vul. Lenina, in Turka. All young people who want to study and make career belong to Komsomol. But only very few join later on the party.

Once in a fortnight Komsomol members had a meeting with their chief. At some of those were also discussed important ~~news~~ events in the USSR and abroad. Komsomol-member had, however, little interest in those lectures and preferred various parties and movies.

From time to time also 6th lesson on Saturdays was used for political ~~training~~ ^{training}, mostly by lecturer of history.

At one of the meetings - S remembered - Beria's affair was explained. She knew only that he was a criminal and worked against the Party. S also listened at a Komsomol meeting to a lecture on cult of personality. This was directed partly against Stalin who, however, had ~~done~~ also done many great things. S remembered that some of elderly people in the party and outside complained in private that "Stalin were too much degraded and one should not suddenly after his death hang all devils on his shoulder!".

At some meetings only an article or a regulation was read and explained. Those were the duller ones.

In 1958 there was a lecture for Komsomols on Sino-Soviet relations. It was stressed that the imperialists were trying all the time to alienate China from the Soviet Union but they always failed because of a permanent and unchangeable friendship and co-operation between those two socialist countries.

The chief of Obkom of Komsomol in Lviv was in 1960-61 TKATCHENKO, Olga who stemmed probably from LVIV. She was Ukrainian. S met at Palace of Pioneers at a conference.

All the time at Komsomol meetings and conferences the emphasis was put on Khrushchev's desire to preserve peace and increase economic and military strength of the Soviet Union.

6. KGB, Militia and other administrative organizations.

All officers of KGB in Turka in Mitakewitcha wul. are Russian. S did not know them neither by name nor moreover personally. Also chief of Militia in Turka is Russian. KGB and Militia are not being liked in general by the people. Everybody prefers to avoid their "friendship". KGB has supposedly to do also with economic problems and not only political. S did not know about any political arrests in recent years with exception of baptists in 1958 or 1959.

Chairman

Chairman of Miskrada (county-council) in Turka was in 1959-61 ROHACH, Vasil Mykolayevitch, party member, Ukrainian, probably from Eastern Ukraine. He always spoke Ukrainian. Another member of county council in Turka - DUB, Volodymyr, party-member, probably local Ukrainian, spoke also Ukrainian.

The chief editor of "Chervona Zirka" - organ of trade unions in Turka was a local Ukrainian from a place near LVIV. (Chervona zirka is a semi-monthly)

7. Youth.

The youth S met did not care very much for politics. She didn't discover any deeper political interest neither for nor against the regime. She heard, however, that in LVIV in 1958 should have been some illegal student-groups who propagated independent Ukraine. She knew no details. Nothing like happened in Turka.

Also Stylagi in Turka were much less conspicuous than in LVIV and other towns. Actually, some of their fashions had been accepted by young people in general. There were, however, no "drastic cases" of moral and social disintegration in Turka which had taken place in LVIV after Stalin's death.

Young people are not very keen on joining "druzhynnyky" but someone has to do this job. In 1961 one druzhynnyk was severely beaten by some unknown people in Turka.

8. Ukrainian underground.

S heard that after the war there had been "people in forests". They fought against the Soviet regime. Most of them were liquidated, arrested, sentenced and deported. A great many, however, took advantage of amnesties of the Soviet government and nowadays were working as other Soviet citizens. The UPA operated still in 1949-50. In 1950 a group of Komsomol members was hanged by UPA-people at SHUMIACH. The UPA-man who "betrayed" them to the other men in the forest, took advantage after Stalin's death of an amnesty and returned to his native village. Local people do not like him, however, and they are not that much concerned with his doings to Komsomolists as with his dirty job with young boys in general whom he has invited to a party and then handed over to those who hang them.

There was no underground in recent years.

9. Military objects.

S heard people talking in Turka that in the near future an airstrip will be built on mountain KITCHERA. She knew no details about it.

On the way from TURKA to YAVORIV is a small airport located. S was not able to give any other data about it.

Between Turka and SHUMIACH a polygon is located in forest. It is forbidden to enter it. It was surrounded with a barbed wire fence. S was unable to give any other details. She heard there from time to time rifle and machine gun shooting.

In Turka, in Lenina street was located in 1960-61 an armored unit. No other data on that.

In BOBYRKA a border-guard-unit is located. Its HQs is probably in Turka at Lenin Place.

S saw towers along the border with guards watching the frontier. The frontier itself is plowed and marked with barbed wire with electrical current (the latter she was told by others). In 1959 or 1960 S went with another girl in woods and saw the frontier but nobody encountered them there. She also heard that in winter 1960 two drunkards crossed by mistake the border into Poland and came back without having been noticed by guards.

S knew nothing about restricted areas. Nor about some restriction on travelling. In 1959 there was an Austrian delegation in Turka. Mostly young people. What they did S did not know.

10. Kolhospy.

Life in kolhospy is much worse than in town but it is improving. Kolhospyrks do steal and would desert most probably collective farms if they would have the chance.

There were also cases of embezzlement, ^{abuse of power} etc. In 1960 the chairman of kolhosp in VOVTCHIE used much wood for his private interests and managed to move to ~~another~~ another oblast before authorities were able to pursue him.

Recently, drushymiki are being more and more engaged in "preserving socialist wealth in kolhospy".

11. Underdeveloped countries.

Party is stressing all the time the importance of helping those nations but people couldn't care less. Here and there are voices that it would be better above all to help ourselves.

Many young people would like to go to other countries under some sort of aid-scheme. So far only few were recruited, either Eastern Ukrainians or Russians. S did not know anybody from Western Ukraine selected for this scheme. She ~~explained~~ explained a lack of trust on the part of the CP for Western Ukrainians in general because they are relatively "fresh" in the Soviet Union.

12. Luniks and sputniks.

Elderly people have no interests in them. The youth is delighted and proud of Soviet achievements.

13. Virgin lands.

People think that it has been a success. S did not know anything about dust-clouds etc. Virgin lands increased Khrushchev's reputation as leader.

14. Monetary Currency reform.

It didn't change very much. In the beginning after its proclamation there was some anxiety among people but later on all settled down. Perhaps do the people value now Rubel more highly than before.

15. In 1956 there was no white bread in Turka. Since 1957 the situation improved. After currency-reform there was more food in shops than before. Meat and butter appeared in May 1961. In Dec 1960 there was almost complete lack of those foodstuffs in Turka.

16. On Turka market are traded mostly American articles sent in parcels from abroad.

Ad 7. (Youth).

The youth likes to read now Ukrainian and Russian classicists like Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Pushkin, Lermontov and others.

From present and "modern" writers it prefers ZRANATSKYY, Yuriy (in particular "Among good people", "My dreams"), Irena VILHE ("Sisters Rachynski"),

Sholekhov.

Vera, KETLINSKAYA (Russian).

Most read magazines and journals: "Yunist'", "Dnipro", "Zhovten'" (less) "Vitchyzna" and "Radzanska Zhinka" (for girls).

There is also great demand for foreign literature.

In general the youth does not like political books but prefers to read about love, family life, adventures etc.